

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application.

Claims 1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence capable of reducing expression levels in a plant or plant cell, wherein said nucleic acid sequence exhibits between 100% and 90% sequence identity to a second nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a complete sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a complement thereof.

24. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 23, wherein said nucleic acid sequence exhibits between 100% and 95% sequence identity to a second nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a complete sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a complement thereof.

25. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said nucleic acid sequence exhibits between 100% and 98% sequence identity to a second nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a complete sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a complement thereof.

26. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 25, wherein said nucleic acid sequence exhibits between 100% and 99% sequence identity to a second

nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a complete sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a complement thereof.

27. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 26, wherein said nucleic acid sequence exhibits 100% sequence identity to a second nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a complete sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a complement thereof.